

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES REGARDING THE BOARD OF ELECTRICAL EXAMINERS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND LICENSING

February 25, 2022

The purpose and necessity of the proposed amendment is to comply with changes from the 2017, 2019 and 2021 legislative sessions.

The proposed amendments would accomplish the following:

- 1.) Amend the board's rule on license and examination fees to provide for an initial fee waiver for certain individuals pursuant to Act 725 of 2021;
- 2.) Amend the board's rule on automatic licensure for military personnel and their spouses to conform to Act 135 of 2021;
- 3.) Amend the board's rules to reflect the Board's decision to eliminate the grace period for acquiring continuing education hours. If any licensee fails to complete the required continuing education hours before the end of each National Electric Code (NEC) cycle, the Board may, after hearing, deny renewal of a license for cause. The NEC cycle is updated every three (3) years. This amendment authorized by Arkansas Code Annotated § 17-28-311(c).
- 4.) Amend the board's rule to comply with Act 720 of 2021 creating a lifetime journeyman license for qualifying individuals sixty-five (65) years of age and older. This amendment also authorized by Arkansas Code Annotated § 17-28-307(b).
- 5.) Amend the board's rules to provide a temporary license for certain construction projects pursuant to Act 476 of 2017.
- 6.) Amend the board's rules to reflect the board's decision to eliminate the Screening Committee for processing exam applications and replace the committee with the Chief Electrical Inspector.
- 7.) Amend the board's rules to recognize the special endorsement for Specialist Sign Electrician pursuant to Act 766 of 2017 and to reflect the twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) yearly renewal fee for a Specialist Sign Electrician's license.

- 8.) Amend the board's rules to reflect the current fee charged by a third-party testing service. This fee is not paid to the department, and it does not exceed the statutory limit of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- 9.) Amend the board's rules to comply with Act 748 of 2021 and Act 990 of 2019 regarding pre-licensure criminal background checks and waiver requests.
- 10.) Amend the board's rules to eliminate the requirement to retake the examination if the licensee fails to renew their license within a year after the expiration of the license. This amendment also reflects the increase of the late fee penalty.
- 11.) Make grammatical and stylistic changes as a result of government transformation.